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Government Press.*Cost of printing at the Government Presses.*

* 384 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the printing cost per page and per 1,000 impressions in each of the Government Presses varies from As. 7-6 to Rs. 3-4-2 and Rs. 8-11-7, and from As. 5-9 to Rs. 2-5-1 and Rs. 10-13-8; and

(b) whether the Government have in contemplation any and, if so, what measures to bring down the costs to the normal level, by increasing the output or economizing the expenditure wherever possible?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 403 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 8th February 1924. The figures given by him relate to the cost of printing 1,000 impressions during the years 1922-23 and 1923-24, respectively.

Labour.*Standard wages of labourers in Ceylon.*

* 385 Q.—RAO SAHIB U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon was consulted about the standard wage;

(b) whether his report, if any, was communicated to the Government of Madras;

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House all connected papers on the subject;

(d) whether the Government have received his opinion regarding the retention of estate taverns and the provision of education for Indian labourers' children in the Ceylon estates; and

(e) if so, whether the Government will kindly place it on the table of the House?

A.—(a) The Agent of the Government of India was not consulted by this Government.

(b) No report has been communicated to the Government of Madras.

(c) Emigration is a 'Central' subject administered by the Government of India and there are no papers relating to the matter with this Government which can be placed on the table of the House.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Appointments.*The work of the Staff Selection Board.*

* 386 Q.—MR. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many applications were received by the Staff Selection Board since its creation for various Government appointments from each community, viz., Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Depressed classes or Adi-Dravidas, Christians and Muhammadans; and

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(b) how many candidates were selected and appointed up to this from the above communities specifying the number of candidates so selected and appointed in each community?

A.—A statement is placed on the table*

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“May I know who is the authority that appoints these selected candidates and if they are Government officers should they not observe the Government Orders?”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—“Sub-Inspectors of the Madras City Police are appointed by the Commissioner of Police. Probationary sub-registrars, upper grade—I am speaking subject to correction—are appointed by the Inspector-General of Registration. Probationary deputy tahsildars are appointed by Government. Clerical staff in Government offices in the City of Madras are appointed by the heads of the various offices. Probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police are appointed by Government. Clerks for the Compilation branch of the Finance Secretariat are appointed by the Finance Secretary. Probationary Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies are appointed by Government.”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“They are all Government officers and do they observe the Government Order on communal representation in the services? If so, I do not find even a single member of the depressed classes appointed except the one in the case of the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies which was made by the hon. Minister?”

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—“Only one Non-Brahman Hindu is appointed sub-inspector of Police; only one again as a probationary deputy tahsildar; and there are none from the depressed classes for these two appointments.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“Does the term ‘Non-Brahman’ connote only the Non-Brahman Hindus or does it include Muhammadans, Christians, Anglo-Indians and so on?”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“Since the Non-Brahman Hindus are classed separately in the list given to us I asked that question. But my meaning of a Non-Brahman includes Muhammadans, Christians, Parsis, domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians.” (Laughter.)

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—“Was the classification made according to the definition of the hon. Member for the City of Madras or was it made according to the Government definition of the term Non-Brahman?”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—“If the hon. Member will look at the statement I think he will find the question answered. There are separate columns for Christians, Muhammadans, Anglo-Indians and depressed classes and therefore the statement takes the term under discussion to mean only Non-Brahman Hindus.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—“There are no domiciled Europeans in the list.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“My question is whether in the Government Order the term ‘Non-Brahman’ means ‘Non-Brahman Hindu’ or whether it includes also all the classes other than the Brahman?”

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Which is the Government Order referred to?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I do not know, Sir. The hon. Member Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar knows it." (Laughter.)

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"It is G.O. No. 758. May I know, Sir, whether these officers are guided by the Government Order in question?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Well, Sir, the hon. Gentleman has made a long speech and I have forgotten his question. I can only say that I presume that the officers observe the Government Order in question."

11-45 a.m. Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Can the appointing authorities overlook the recommendations of the Staff Selection Board?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"No, Sir, the Staff Selection Board merely selects certain people and they do not make recommendations to the Government as to who should be appointed."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"The Board have recommended many candidates from the depressed classes and the Government have appointed only one. Is it out of courtesy or mercy, Sir, that this is done?"

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"This clearly shows that Government officers have not observed the Government Order in question. May I know what are the principles guiding the Board in the selection of the candidates?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMAN :—"May I know, Sir, if all the applications are placed before the Board, or there is some authority which eliminates some applications before the Board considers them all?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Sir, I have made enquiries of the Chief Secretary, who is the Chairman of the Board, and he informed me that all the applications were placed before the Board. Those who have not got the minimum technical qualifications are set aside and then the Board considers all the other applications."

Mr. R. MADANAGOPAL NAYUDU :—"Sir, the Board selected ten Non-Brahmans and five Brahmans for the sub-inspectors of police but only one Non-Brahman and two Brahmans were appointed by the appointing authority. Does it not clearly show that the authorities do not observe the Government Order referred to by Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that the term 'Non-Brahman' in the Government Order includes Muhammadans, Christians and Anglo-Indians and on that basis there are two Brahmans while there are three Non-Brahmans?"

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"In the Government Order they are classified separately."

Mr. R. MADANAGOPAL NAYUDU :—"I expected the answer from the hon. Member of Government."

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"If each hon. Member asks a question and then proceeds to make a speech after it, we naturally forget what exactly is wanted."

"I think much the same question was put by my hon. Friend Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar asking whether the Government Order was observed by the officers of Government or not. I answered I had no reason to suppose that it was not. I am still of that opinion."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know what is the principle by which the Staff Selection Board is guided? Out of 155 applications it has selected only 10."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I may point out, Sir, that if there are only two appointments to be made it would not serve any useful purpose to select a very large number. The Board simply selects the best qualified persons from all the communities so that the appointing authorities may choose from among them."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, in answer to one of the questions or in the course of the discussion, it was stated that for the appointments of assistant registrar of Co-operative Societies about 600 applications were received and only about 60 were placed before the Board and the Board selected about 16 or 20—I do not know the exact figures—from which the Government appointed only eight. May I request the hon. Member to go into the question and see why out of such a large number of applications registered so many were rejected? Was it because they did not have the minimum technical qualifications?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"That is exactly what I have said, Sir. It is extraordinary what a large number of unqualified persons do apply."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that even qualified persons were eliminated from the preliminary list by authorities?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Eventually, Sir, that is so."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"May I ask the hon. Member to enquire and find out whether even people with the necessary technical qualifications are eliminated in the preliminary elimination?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I am sorry I do not follow the hon. Member; because there must be a considerable amount of elimination before we arrive at 20 out of 300."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Did the elimination take place before the applications went to the Board and if so, will the hon. Member be pleased to enquire whether it included even those with the necessary qualifications?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I have already said that all the names are placed before the Board. First the names of those who do not possess the necessary qualifications are eliminated and out of the balance they had to make further eliminations and arrive at 20."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"I find that some Brahmans were selected for posts of sub-inspectors of police. Though a number of applications were registered from candidates belonging to the depressed classes and one was selected by

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the Staff Selection Board for such an appointment, no appointment was given to him. I want to know the reason why at least one member of the depressed classes was not recommended or appointed."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"The Staff Selection Board does not appoint any people but merely recommends that the persons selected are qualified for the appointment."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"The point is this. If a member of the depressed classes was recommended, why was he not given preference over others?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"All I can say is that, I presume, there were better qualified people who were given preference."

Mr. M. GANGARAZU :—"How was it that nobody from the Arya-Vysya community was appointed as sub-inspector of police?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"It is not possible to give an appointment to everybody."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—"Does the process of elimination affect the Brahmans more than the non-Brahmans?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"The hon. Member's arithmetic seems to be correct."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Why in the compilation branch of the Finance Department no member of any other community except that of Brahmans was selected? Am I to take it that the Staff Selection Board recommended only the applications of Brahmans and not those of any other community? Am I to understand that the Staff Selection Board did not get sufficiently qualified men from other communities?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"Presumably, Sir."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Have the Staff Selection Board grown so autocratic?"

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Is it because that it was difficult to get more number of non-Brahman applicants for such a hard work? There were only a small number of applicants of that community, only about five or so."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"It is because the concerned appointment belonged to clerical side?"

Constitution of Districts, Divisions and Taluks.

Regrouping revenue divisions in Nellore district.

* 387 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether there are under consideration any and if so what proposals for the regrouping of the revenue divisions or taluks in the Nellore district?